

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /095 W

----- 128642

R 101418Z JUN 75

FM AMEMASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3689

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 4856

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EGEN, IV

SUBJ: IVORIAN PRESS REACTION TO ECONWAS

REF: LAGOS 5140

1. THE IVORIAN PRESS COVERED THE ECONWAS CONFERENCES AT  
CONSIDERABLE LENGTH GIVING FULL TEXTS OF SEVERAL SPEECHES AND  
PRESS CONFERENCES AFTER THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND THE  
ENTIRE TEXT OF THE TREATY. WHILE IVORIAN EDITORIALS WERE  
GLOWING IN THEIR PRAISE OF THIS STEP FORWARD IN AFRICAN  
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UNITY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, THERE WAS LITTLE REA

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ANALYSIS OF THE MEANING AND VERACITY OF ECNWAS. AS THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE NOTES, THERE WERE NOT OPERATIVE PROTOCOLS AGREED UPON BY THE DELEGATES, THEREFORE IN EMBASSY'S VIEW IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER CONCRETE STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE FACTOR MOBILITY OR INSTITUTE ANY OF THE NECESSARY COMMON LEGISLATION NEEDED FOR REGIONAL GROUPINGS.

2. IVORY COAST PRAISED ITSELF AND ITS DELEGATE HENRY KONAN BEDIE, MINISTER OF FINANCE, FOR THEIR ROLE AS MODERATING INFLUENCES, ADDING REALITY TO THE DRAFT TRDATY AND THEREBY IMPORVING ITS CHANCES OF BECOMING A MEANINGFUL DOCUMENT.

3. REGARDING IVORIAN-NIGERIAN RELATIONS, OURIMPRESSION HAS BEEN THAT IVORY COAST HAS A CAUTIOUS AWARENESS OF THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF NIGERIA AND A RELUCTANCE TO ENTER INTO CLOSE RELATIONSWITH SUCH A POWERFUL NEIGHBOR. WHILE THE ECOWAS TREATY DOES NOT MATERIALLY CHANGE THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, A MORE OPEN DIALOGUE HAS DEFINITELY BEEN ESTABLISHED VERY LIKELY DUE TO A REALISTIC APPRAISAL BY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET THAT SOONER OR LATER HE WILL HAVE TO NORMALIZE AND EXPAND IVORY COAST'S CONTACTS WITH ITS GIANT NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST.

4. WHILE ECOWAS HAS DEFINITELY BEEN PUT ON THE BOOKS, ABIDJAN IS CONVINCED THAT THE CEA0 WILL BE THE FOCUS OF HOUPHOUET'S ATTENTION WITH THE INTENT OF CREATING A TIGHTLY KNIT ECONOMIC UNIT IN WHICH IVORY COAST WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT. THIS UNIT, THEN, CAN SERVE AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE NIGERIAN ECONOMIC STRENGHT WITHIN THE LARGER ECONWAS. SENEGAL'S DELEGATE PRESSED VERY HARD FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN AMENDMENT RECOGNIZING REGIONAL GROUPINGS. THIS POSITION WAS LIKELY WORKED OUT IN THE CEA0 MEETINGS AND THE CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN NAIMEY.

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